

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary comprising:  
connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;  
collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider;  
processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;  
preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data;  
connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a taxing authority; and  
filing electronically said electronic tax return with said taxing authority.
2. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider is an employer, a partnership, a bank, a savings and loan institution, a mortgage institution, a credit card bureau, a thrift institution, a securities brokerage firm, a mutual fund holding institution, or a charity.
3. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider is said taxing authority.
4. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider is a second taxing authority.

5. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider is the United States Internal Revenue Service.

6. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider being electronically connected to said electronic intermediary using an electronic link.

7. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 6, wherein said electronic link comprises telephone communication equipment.

8. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 6, wherein said electronic link comprises an electronic data network.

9. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data provider being electronically connected to said electronic intermediary using a computer-readable medium.

10. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, wherein said tax data is a payroll statement, a bank statement, a savings and loan statement, a mortgage statement, a credit card bureau statement, a thrift institution

statement, a brokerage account statement, a mutual fund statement, or a charity statement.

11. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether taxes are owed or to be refunded;

if taxes are owed, paying electronically said taxes owed; and

if taxes are to be refunded, receiving electronically a tax refund.

12. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 11, wherein the step of paying electronically said taxes owed comprises:

connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a financial institution; and

authorizing said financial institution to pay said taxes owed.

13. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 11, wherein the step of receiving electronically said tax refund comprises:

connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a financial institution; and

authorizing said taxing authority to credit said tax refund to said financial institution.

14. The method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing electronically a final report.

15. An apparatus for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

- means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
- means for collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider;
- means for processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;
- means for preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data;
- means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a taxing authority; and
- means for filing electronically said electronic tax return with said taxing authority.

16. An apparatus for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 15, wherein said means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to said tax data provider comprises a modem.

17. An apparatus for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 15, wherein said means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to said tax data provider comprises a computer-readable medium.

18. An apparatus for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary as in Claim 15, wherein said means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to said tax data provider comprises an electronic data network.

19. A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary, said computer program comprising code segments for:

- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
- collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider;
- processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;
- preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data;
- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary with a taxing authority; and
- filing electronically said electronic tax return to said taxing authority.

20. A method for automatic tax reporting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
- collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider;
- processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and
- preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.